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NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices
that **matter.**

NC Policy Watch's Monday numbers

By [Lisa Sorg](#)

After President Trump announced he would open the entire US coast to offshore drilling – including areas like North Carolina that have long been off-limits -- governors up and down the Eastern Seaboard, immediately condemned the proposal.

Gov. Roy Cooper and Secretary of the Environment Michael Regan both vehemently oppose Trump's plan. They cite the environmental and economic risks to the state's fragile coastline, worth billions of dollars in tourism dollars each year.

"Offshore drilling and the seismic testing that would precede it pose environmental and economic risks to North Carolina's coastal communities that we cannot afford," Regan said.

Federal and state data show what's at stake. While additional regulations and safety measures since the 1970s have contributed to the decline in the overall number of petroleum spills, those accidents involving drilling platforms increased from 510 to 564. The number pipeline spills decreased from 207 to 141.

More troubling, though, is the primary cause of spills over the past 15 years: Hurricanes. [\[Read more...\]](#)

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